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For Immediate Release

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**DR. RONNIE GREEN RECEIVES AWARD OF MERIT, NAYC'S HIGHEST HONOR**  
*Scholarships presented to students at NAYI*

LINCOLN – Dr. Ronnie Green, former Chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and long-time ag education advocate, was recently selected by Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council (NAYC) members to receive the Council's highest honor, the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute's (NAYI) Award of Merit. Green's award was presented during a special NAYI awards luncheon on July 12 at UNL's East Campus Union in Lincoln. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) oversees NAYC and NAYI.

"Throughout his distinguished career, Ronnie Green has mentored, encouraged and inspired countless students to learn about agriculture and consider careers in the ag industry," said NAYC Advisor Christin Kamm. "This Award of Merit is a token of our appreciation to Dr. Green for his constant support of agriculture, education and the next generation of ag leaders."

Green grew up on a farm in southwest Virginia. He continued his agricultural studies earning B.S. and M.S. degrees in animal science from Virginia Tech and Colorado State University, respectively. His doctoral program was completed jointly at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture's U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in animal breeding and genetics.

In 2010, Green was chosen to lead UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Green then became UNL's chief academic officer, and, in May 2016, Green became UNL's 20<sup>th</sup> chancellor, a role he said has been the pleasure and privilege of a lifetime.

"Dr. Green is dedicated, knowledgeable and passionate about agriculture and has built a legacy in education that is reflected in the faces of NAYI delegates, NAYC members, Nebraska ag leaders, and numerous others who chose careers in agriculture," said Kamm. "We want to thank Ronnie for his years of service and wish him all the best in his retirement."

**Scholarships Awarded to Youth**

Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each were awarded to two recent high school graduates who participated in NAYI this year as returning delegates. Returning delegates have additional responsibilities during NAYI designed to enhance leadership abilities and organizational skills.

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The two scholarship recipients are Conner Snyder of McCook and Caleb Burnside of Stapleton. These two students are planning to attend the University of Nebraska this fall and be a part of CASNR.

NAYI is a week-long event for high school juniors and seniors interested in agriculture. NAYI includes motivational speakers, ag education, networking with peers and industry leaders, leadership experience and information on ag careers. In its 52<sup>nd</sup> year, NAYI is the longest running program of its kind in the nation.

NAYI is made possible through generous donations from agricultural businesses, commodity groups and industry organizations. To learn more about NAYC or NAYI, visit <https://nda.nebraska.gov/nayi/>.

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**NOTE TO MEDIA:** Photos of award recipients are available by emailing NDA's webmaster at [agr.webmaster@nebraska.gov](mailto:agr.webmaster@nebraska.gov).